[8th February 1924

(*e*) whether the Government propose to construct a bridge over the river in view of the great inconvenience caused to the people ?

A.—(*a*) The Divisional office at Devakottai is situated at a distance of half a mile from the town. There is no bridge across the river which separates the office from the town.

(*b*) The site was approved by a Site Committee.

(*c*) Yes. The Government have issued orders for the temporary location of the office on the northern side of the river during the rainy season.

(*d*) On receipt of plans and estimates for the construction of a bridge, the District Board was asked to report how it proposed to finance the work. The President requested that the cost be met entirely from Provincial funds. He was then asked to report whether the Board was willing to finance the scheme by means of a loan, but he enquired whether a grant of half the cost would be sanctioned. He was informed that no promise of a half grant could be given.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative. It is for the District Board to construct a bridge.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I request the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to kindly reconsider the answer given to clause (*e*) and try to see that a bridge is constructed ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member has received the very careful consideration of the Government. It is a question of the financial condition of the province. I cannot give any assurance without consulting my Colleagues."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Moreover it is a suggestion for action."

Village establishments.

Revision of Village establishments.

306 *Q.*—Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of posts of village officers and menials reduced by the Board of Revenue both in the ryotwari and in the proprietary areas, in connexion with the recent general revision of village establishments subsequent to the increase in their salaries ; and

(*b*) the total amount of saving involved thereby ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement at page 65 of the Report of the Madras Retrenchment Committee, Volume I, which has been placed on the Council table. Up to date information is not available.

Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB :—" Sir, the answer given contains information up to 19th September 1923. May I ask the Government to bring it up to date, say till December 1923 ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" We have not got the figures ; it is rather difficult to collect the figures. Yet, we will do it."